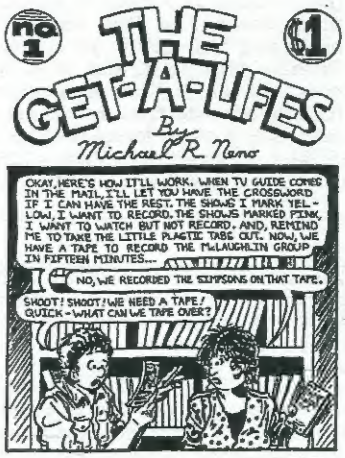
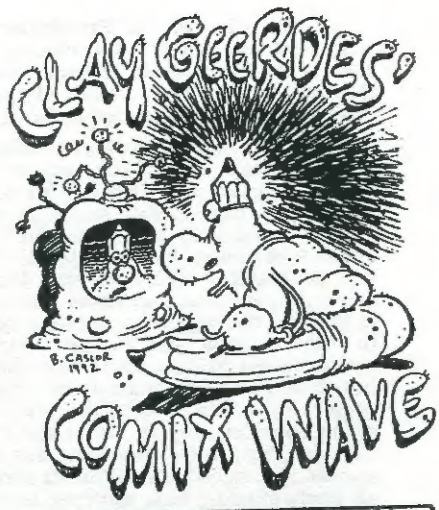
Our Lady of the Dildoes Meets Peter Pan

There were several references to Madonna on **Bob** [Newhart] the other night and the guy who works with Bob on the *Mad Dog* comic strip told him at one point "She ought to get down on her knees and thank you." I love subtleties like that in sitcoms. TV just gets more blasé. I watched Michael Jackson giggle and titter his way through one of the most self-indulgent and embarassing interviews yet to disgrace a major channel. Why Jackson would want to display his ignorance for a hour and a half on prime time is curious. I can understand him wanting to show off all his toys and trophies, but the guy has become such a braggart in his middle years. He's 34 years old and acts like he's eight. He never gives anyone any credit but himself. You'd think he could put on a show all alone and the truth is his hi-tech performances and videos are orchestrated by hundreds of technicians. Well, hey, Mike, catch this. I don't give a damn whether you're a virgin or not and if you want to pay a plastic surgeon to make you look like an android, that's your problem, but when you take up an hour and a half of prime time you should either stick to a song and dance routine or get an education so you'll have something worth saying. Money may get flacks to yes you in the business, but a king you're not. --C.G.

Kitchen Sink has taken over as publisher of Larry Welz' **Cherry Poptart** and will reprint many of the issues as well as a new collection [Volume 3]. Like the Ninja Turtles, **Cherry** is another of those parodies that developed a life of its own. Cherry is Betty the way she might have been if she had lived up to the fantasies of all the stadium fanboys in Riverdale.

Chris Bachalo will be signing at Comics & Comix in Berkeley on Saturday, March 27. 4-6 PM. Info. 510-644-8377. Bachalo has done the art on the latest run of **Shade** and is now working on the three issue **DEATH** series for DC. I'm following DCs new comics noir trip.


no 1
THE GET-A-LIFES
$1
By Michael R. Neno
OKAY, HERE'S HOW IT'LL WORK. WHEN TV GUIDE COMES IN THE MAIL, I'LL LET YOU HAVE THE CROSSWORD IF I CAN HAVE THE REST. THE SHOWS I MARK YELLOW, I WANT TO RECORD. THE SHOWS MARKED PINK, I WANT TO WATCH BUT NOT RECORD. AND, REMIND ME TO TAKE THE LITTLE PLASTIC TABS OUT. NOW, WE HAVE A TAPE TO RECORD THE McLAUGHLIN GROUP IN FIFTEEN MINUTES...
NO, WE RECORDED THE SIMPSONS ON THAT TAPE.
SHOOT! SHOOT! WE NEED A TAPE! QUICK - WHAT CAN WE TAPE OVER?



CLAY GEERDES **COMIX WAVE** 136
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P. O. Box 7094, Berkeley, CA 94707. All Rights Reserved. Artwork and material herein ©the artists or writers involved and used here for promotional purposes only. $11 for the next twelve issues. $45 for a complete set of back issues. Checks to Clay Geerdes. MO's or cash, fine.

COMIX NETWORKERS

If you're looking for some European contacts into comix, you might write to some of the following guys, most of whom have zines to trade.

Tommy Hozager Olesen
Marius Holst Gade 6, 4th
DK-8700 Horsens
Denmark

F. Vieira
Apartado 454
8500 Portimao
Portugal

Florian Engel
Natruper Strasse 151
4500 Osnabrück
Germany

Sortez La Chienne
c/o Johnny Roetring
48 Rue Leon Gambetta
5900 Lille
France

Marcel Ruizters
P. Jacobsstraat 6
6133 AM Sittard
Holland

Ingamar Bengtsson
PI 665
430 64 Hallingsjo
Sweden

If you were listed in the 1982 edition of THE UNDERGROUND AND NEWAVE COMIX PRICE GUIDE, I'd love to get a current address for you. This is also your chance to correct any inaccuracies or omissions in the listings of your work. Write and tell me about my mistakes.

Even if you weren't listed in the 1982 edition, I am interested in hearing your suggestions on how to improve the UG PRICE GUIDE and in learning of any mistakes you've spotted.

Or maybe you just collected underground comix and would like to be put on my mailing list for updates on the project's progress. That's fine. Send your name and address (and a wantlist too, if you have one) to this address:

Jay Kennedy
P. O. Box 1190
Canal Street Station
New York, NY 10013-1190

By 1967, the "beatniks had been given a new name--hippies--and their cultural withdrawal was evolving into a form of politics. Clashes with police during the Summer of Love in San Francisco's Haight-Ashbury district and the Sunset Strip of Los Angeles, the organizing of "be-ins" around the country, the appearance of scores of "underground" papers, and the success of *Rolling Stone* magazine gave a rebellious identity to the new youth culture.

Tom Hayden. *Reunion*. 1988.

I could no more be a hippie in 1967 than I could be a beatnik in the fifties. I loved the music of the times, but strictly as a background to my life. I went to a few concerts, owned hardly any albums, rarely danced, and was privately fightened by the loss of control that drug advocates celebrated. On one of the few occasions when I tried marijuana, I found myself on the floor laughing hysterically during a supposedly serious meeting; another time, I became very angry at having lost all train of thought in the midst of an important conversation. All during the "cultural revolution" I remained the straight man, chastised by the Yippies for being dangerously uptight, power-driven, even--organizational! Still, I defended the cultural revolution" as a response of my generation to our parents' world, and I saw the Yippies as challenging bourgeois values. Unfortunately I was not critical enough of the so-called new values they offered and often let myself become an ally of absurdity masquerading as revolutionary politics.

Tom Hayden. *Reunion*. 1988.

EL VIBORA 155 and **KISS COMIX 15** are $10 each pp from J. M. Berengueuer. Plaza Beatas 3, Barcelona, Spain. Erotica. Adults only.

COMIX PLUGOLA

THE GET-A-LIFES #1 is $1.25 pp from Michael R. Neno, POB 151303, Columbus, OH 43215. Mike's DZ **DISCOURSE** is $3.75 pp and the 4th issue contains a nice article about Peter Bagge's **HATE**, a comic book I have followed with a lot of affection since it spun off from **NEAT STUFF**. Mike will send you his recent catalog with an order. -C.G.

DARK ART 1 is a 60¢ minicomic from Frank G. Lloyd, Jr. POB 248, Richwood, WV 26261-0348. Monster art.

Dave Sim's **CEREBUS 167** continues his Mothers and Daughters series.

FARMBOY FUNNIES 5 is 50¢/stamp from
Rich Prosch
305 Pinehaven #44
Laurens, SC 29360

CEREBUS 166 continues Dave Sim's Mothers and Daughters sequence.

Dear Clay--

I really enjoyed your newsletter on your first 20 years! I just sat back and pictured those days. I remembered too all the *head* shops here in town and seeing those 50¢ underground comic books. Also the dirty run down comic book stores in Cleveland! They were always in small old buildings and back then you were lucky to find a few D.C's and Marvels--now that's all you see! And those comic book stores are too clean, too modern, and too *business* like. I loved the *antique* look of the old days. So when you were describing yourself and Fred Todd and all the others in that old warehouse, well, I could picture myself there with you guys. It seems like that time came and went so quickly. We all took it for granted, I guess.

Bob Vojtko
2/15/93

The Summer of Hate

Peter Bagge and **Dan Clowes** will be touring this Spring and Summer. Check your local throwaway papers for ads and locations.

Dear Clay--

Whatever happened to the days when kids read comic books for fun? Bob [Vojtko] had a box of comic books we tried to give to some neighborhood kids. Would you believe they didn't want them because they weren't valuable? Well, that's my commentary on the world of comics.

Sue Vojtko
2/15/93

FIGHT MAIL FRAUD!

Has your granny at the condo won $10 million bucks again? Computerized mail fraud is okay these days. It preys on older people who do not see too well and are a bit slow in picking up on a scam to sell magazine subscriptions to people who never stop watching soap operas and game shows long enough to read. We got one of these bullshit mailers recently and I took it back to the post office to refuse it and found I couldn't even refuse it. I would have to pony up the postage to send it back to some box number in Florida. It's mail fraud and the people behind it are thieves and liars. My advice if you get one of these is to write MAIL FRAUD on it with a magic marker and pin it to the bulletin board nearest the post office.

Harvey Pekar was scheduled to appear on the David Letterman show, March 5, 1993, to plug his newest **American Splendor**, and Letterman announced him at the beginning of the show, but no Pekar! So what happened behind the scenes, Dave? Whoopi Goldberg interviewed Charles Schulz on her talk show in February of '93. Can it be that talk show hosts are discovering that cartoonists are interesting, articulate people, that they have as much to say as overpaid actors and made-by-tv celebrities? Pekar is from Cleveland, Ohio. What it is about Cleveland? Celebrities as diverse as Superman and Dealer McDope originated there. Of course, so did Mickey Cohen and Warren Gamaliel Harding, one of the first presidents to disgrace the White House. One of Harding's cronies used to sell bootleg liquor out of a briefcase. He went door to door in the White House. Need any scotch today, senator?

Ah, y'know, the Prohibition Act that went into law in 1920 changed the history of America. It created both J. Edgar Hoover and John Fitzgerald Kennedy. Hoover pretended to be fighting bootleggers while he was controlled by Meyer Lansky, one of the majors, and Joseph Kennedy made his fortune selling bootleg, the fortune that enabled him to buy the presidency for his son in 1960. When Prohibition was repealed in 1933 and the country went wet again, the law establishment that had come into being to fight the bootleggers [or pretend to] had to find a new justification for its existence, so hello cocaine and heroin! Booze was used to control the working people, the *underclass*, in the early days of the American empire, and it still works that way, but drugs have come into their own as a clandestine method for funding all kinds of quasi-legal projects. If you're curious about how it works these days, see Sally Denton's **THE BLUEGRASS CONSPIRACY** [New York: Avon, 1990], and don't miss Anthony Summers new book on the corruption of J. Edgar Hoover. We know the game has changed a bit, because Gary Hart jumped ship after a picture of him with a party woman on his lap appeared on the front page of the National **Enquirer**, while Bill Clinton ignored a detailed account of one of his sexual affairs in **Penthouse** and went on into the oval office. Racism elected George Bush in '88, but from the constituency of the new administration it doesn't look like racism could get anyone elected dog catcher in '96.

Please note that the obituaries in CW are written for people I knew as friends, that each one is a personal memoir of my relationship with the person and not intended to be a comprehensive catalog of achievements and awards. I make no pretense of objectivity. Good, bad, or indifferent, my news letters reflect however I think at the time they are written. I seldom write about anything that doesn't interest me. I haven't had to do that since my college days. -C.G.

SISTER CITY

Berkeley was named for Bishop George Berkeley. I won't bore you with his history, but it doesn't bother me to live in a town named for him. I grew up in a town named for Abraham Lincoln and that didn't bother me either. Unless you are around for the beginnings of things, you are unlikely to have anything named after you. Guess what I think of the idea of naming Berkeley Sister City? This idea appeared under the byline of a UC student calling herself Beatrix Free X as an editorial in *The Daily Californian*. X referred to Berkeley as a "proudly acknowledged center in the Western United States of true global feminist and lesbian political power."

In her daydreams. What a sexist. In general Berkeley approves of gay rights and doesn't believe in discrimination against anyone, but the town is a long way from being any center of global lesbian power. I'm always amazed at what is projected and said for and about Berkeley, a city where I have lived since 1970, one which is currently as polyglot a place as you're likely to find. There are very large groups of Chinese, Japanese, African-American, Vietnamese, Thailandese, East Indian, as well as Irish and English and German Americans congregating here and very few are lesbians. 34% of UC's recent class was Asian. If you walk around town, you will see many more Asian and black and Arabic people walking the streets, working in the shops, and, indeed, managing the smaller minimarts and diners and import shops than caucasians. Very few of these people are lesbians either.

Sister City. Give me a break. Now Brother City; hey, that has kind of a ring to it... C.G.

The range of subject matter in comic books continues to broaden and if enough young artists and writers recognize the great potential of the comic book and devote themselves, the medium will recieve the recognition it deserves as a first-rate art form.

Harvey Pekar
Comics Are Serious Stuff
Cleveland Free Times, Feb. 10, 1993.

Crumbofiles take note. Bob Levin solves the mystery of the missing **ZAP** art in *The Search for Zap #0* in **The Comics Journal 156**. This is a nice piece about the way rumor is strong and longer lasting than mundane truth.

I have to comment about this lost art piece. Nothing new, just a reminder. **Always send stats when you're submitting your work to a publisher.** Never send your original art anywhere. If you do, it's your problem, not the publisher's. I used to see artwork sitting in packing boxes on the floor at Last Gasp and Rip Off Press and I knew it had been there for quite awhile. Since the publishers had not asked for that art, they had no responsibility for it and took none. If there was no return postage and packaging included, that artwork was where it would remain, often forever. Newcomers to the game are always naive about how things work. Why should a publisher pay your expenses? Why should he care about you one way or another? Publishing comics is a business and it is no more altruistic than any other. If something comes in the mail and a publisher thinks he can sell it and make some money from it, he will. But comics are always a gamble. Just because I think Mr. Snufflebox is funnier than a fart in church doesn't mean anyone else will. A lot of comix have been published during my tenure here at CW that never sold copy one! Sorry about that. Can't make the public buy what it doesn't get off on. You tell me why shows I like never seem to make it into second season on the tube. So the message is simple: if you're sitting there drawing the great American comic book and you think you're the next Crumb, go with it, but send stats to potential publishers and keep your original art safe from coffee stains and cat shit and angry lovers who may decide to rip it up when the course of true love fails to run smoothly.

The latest **CITY LIMITS GAZETTE** profiles Dennis Pimple and mentions Bob Moulton's Bizarro Bibliography. Yes, I did like the Bizarro issues of Superman. What amazed me was the patience of the guys who had to ink all those multifaceted characters. How about a hand for them? **CLG** is 15 bucks a year and you can count on **Steve Willis** to meet his deadline. POB 390, McCreary, WA 98557-0390.